

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/964,386

Examiner

Jennifer A. Leung

Applicant(s)

ERGUN ET AL.

Art Unit

1764

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on 01 September 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 13-32 and 35.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/530,943.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 9-1-05
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Hien Tran

**HIEN TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Arnold Turk on November 8, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 has been replaced by the following claim:

-- An apparatus for producing fatty acid methyl ester, comprising:

at least one container for fats;

a tank for alkaline solution;

a tank for alcohol;

a mixing vessel for compounding the alkaline solution and the alcohol;

a reaction section connected to the at least one container and the mixing vessel through a high pressure pump capable of achieving a pressure of 200 bar for introducing the fats, the alkaline solution and the alcohol to the reaction section, said reaction section being structured and arranged to perform transesterification under pressure with the pressure being reduced during transesterification, said reaction section comprising a static mixer comprising a pipe filled with balls to enlarge boundary surfaces of the mixture of fats, alkaline solution and alcohol in said reaction section; and

a separation unit downstream from the reaction section. --

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Page 1, lines 2-7, of the Specification has been replaced by the following paragraph to correct for an incorrect filing date:

-- The present application is a divisional application of U.S. Application No. 09/530,943, filed May 10, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,440,057, which is a National Stage Application of PCT/AT98/00284, filed November 23, 1998, which was not published in English under PCT Article 21(2), the disclosures of which are expressly incorporated by reference herein in their entireties. The present application claims priority to Austrian Application No. 1990/97, filed November 24, 1997 and Austrian Application No. 1807/98, filed October 30, 1998. --

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The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art does not disclose or adequately teach the claimed apparatus comprising a reaction section comprising a static mixer comprising a pipe filled with balls, in which fats, alkaline solution and alcohol are supplied to the reaction section through a high pressure pump capable of achieving a pressure of 200 bar.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jennifer A. Leung whose telephone number is (571) 272-1449. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am - 5:30 pm M-F, every other Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn A. Caldarola can be reached on (571) 272-1444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jennifer A. Leung

November 8, 2005 



**HIEN TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER**